

Support local programs through CFC

U.S. military members and federal employees stationed overseas once again can contribute to their family support and youth activity programs through this year's Combined Federal Campaign.

Last year, donors gave more than \$252,000 to family support and youth activity programs throughout the armed services via the CFC. Contributions support life skills and citizenship training, leisure and recreation activities, intervention and support services, as well as sports and fitness programs.

The 1997 CFC-O contributor brochure lists family support and youth activity programs under the designation "FSYP." Donors who want to designate their contributions in whole or in part to these programs in their area can do so simply by entering "FSYP" in the "Four-Digit Agency Code" section of their pledge card.

The 1997 Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Wednesday and lasts six weeks. For more information about how to make a donation, contact your unit coordinator. They are:

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Tips for shipping pets on military aircraft

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFNS) — When it's time to move overseas, transportation for military members and their families is usually a given. Even though "Fido" or "Fluffy" may rate higher than some members of the family, their travel arrangements are not so automatic.

"People should know that there are guidelines when shipping pets overseas aboard Category B (military contracted) flights," said MSgt. Rodney R. Moss Jr., chief of the Air Mobility Command passenger reservation control center and pet waiver authority for the Army and Air Force.

"Only passengers who are permanently changing stations can request pet shipment," he said. The term "pet" is loosely used. In actuality, only dogs and cats can be flown on Cat. B flights.

Moss said people can apply for a waiver to ship more than the policy-limited two pets. Waivers aside, there are numerous other things military pet owners must complete before they can check their pets at the airport. Just like people, pets need reservations. Reservations can be made through local traffic management offices.

If the pet doesn't have a confirmed reservation on the Cat. B flight, the owner is responsible for all necessary arrangements, including shipment via other means, said Moss. For people who don't want to see "Fido" bumped at the terminal, Moss recommends making arrangements as far in advance as possible.

"Space is limited on Cat. B flights, and pet shipment requests are handled on a first-come, first-served basis," he said. "People should let their TMO representative know they have a pet during their initial assignment briefing. Upon requesting reservations, passengers must also present a rabies vaccination certificate or veterinary health certificate to their transportation office as proof of ownership. The rep can explain how to make a pet reservation and all other

requirements for shipment," he added.

Moss said it's the passenger's responsibility to comply with all documentation, immunization and border clearance requirements needed for pet shipment. These certificates are presented to a transportation representative at the airport when the passenger checks in.

The owner must also declare if a pet is pregnant, said Moss. But just because "Fluffy" is with kitten doesn't automatically place her on the no-go list. Pregnant pets can travel if accompanied by a veterinary certificate noting the animal is fit to travel and there is no risk of birth occurring during the journey, he said.

In addition, Moss said pets must be transported in International Air Transport Association-approved containers. The animal must be able to stand, turn around and lie down with ease while in the container. Two dogs or two cats of comparable size (up to 30.8 pounds each) that are used to cohabitation may be shipped together in the same container, but a dog and cat can't travel in the same container, according to Moss. Furthermore, if "Fido" has been hitting the table scraps a little too hard and he and his container tip the scales at 100 pounds, Cat. B flight is not an option.

"We no longer ship animals that weigh (in their containers) 100 pounds or more," said Moss. However, "heavyweights" that were transported overseas by Air Mobility Command prior to the Oct. 1, 1993, rule change can be shipped back to the United States aboard Cat. B flights.

There are other restrictions for passengers who want to ship their pets overseas, according to Moss. Such factors as age and breed can affect pet shipment. He advises passengers to check with their local traffic management offices to help make "Fido's" or "Fluffy's" move as smooth as possible. (Courtesy of AMC News Service)